

**Carmel Valley Road Improvements Complete
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Carmel Valley News, September 2007**

Just over one year after work begun, the improvements to Carmel Valley Road west of Interstate 5 are complete.

When I was elected to the City Council in 2000, I began working with the community on several projects, including the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project, targeting a one-mile stretch between Via Mar Valley and Portofino Drive. The involvement of the Torrey Pines Planning Board dates back to the late 1990's. This well-traveled stretch leads to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and Torrey Pines State Beach, and is often used for overflow beach parking. After so many years of planning, I made it a priority to get the project designed approved by the California Coastal Commission. As a member of the Commission, I was pleased to help make that happen in 2003.

The goals of the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project are to improve safety by reducing speed and providing safe access for joggers, walkers and bicyclists, and improve and protect the lagoon. A new Class 2 bike path and new walking trails along the Peñasquitos Lagoon allow beautiful views of the newly enhanced wetlands as well as protected access to the beach. New storm water pollution filters divert and treat polluted water before it enters the lagoon. Non-native plants such as iceplant were replaced with indigenous wetland species.

Other improvements include undergrounding of utility lines, and landscaping and decorative pavement to help reflect the pride this community has in the beauty of their surroundings.

My thanks to the Torrey Pines Planning Board for their hard work and dedication to this project. Special recognition also goes the City's Engineering and Capital Projects department. And a special thank you to the residents and merchants in the affected area for your patience during the project's construction. I hope you will find that the benefits of the project were worth the inconveniences.

I hope you will join me at another community event in Torrey Pines this month. On September 15, my staff and I will join hundreds of community volunteers at Torrey Pines State Beach for the annual California Coastal Day Cleanup. It's my honor to sponsor this important community cleanup for the past five years.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is part of a worldwide cleanup effort, organized by the Ocean Conservancy, which has brought over 100 nations together to cleanup the earth's waterways on the same day.

Gloves, trash bags and other equipment are provided, as well as food and drinks. Please throw on a hat and sunscreen and join us on September 15 to protect and enhance our precious coastal environment!

